

THE PROVISIONAL TANK GROUP

UNITED STATES ARMY FORCES IN THE FAR EAST



To the men of Company D, 192d Tank Battalion,
of Harrodsburg, Kentucky, both living and dead,
who sacrificed so that freedom may live.



Tank, M3A1, diesel, "Gen. Stuart," light.

Prepared by The Office of The Adjutant General, Kentucky Department of Military Affairs, in order to pay tribute to the heroic men of Company D, 192d Tank Battalion, of Harrodsburg, at the dedication of the Bataan Memorial, in Harrodsburg, Kentucky on June 15, 1961.

Major General Arthur Y. Lloyd
The Adjutant General of Kentucky

Brigadier General William R. Buster
Assistant Adjutant General

William J. Dennis
Military Research Analyst

Cover: Seal of The Army and Air National Guard.

Tank: M3A1, diesel, "General Stuart", light. This type tank was used by the Provisional Tank Group, USAFFE, during the Philippine Campaign 1941-1942. It mounts a 37mm cannon and weighs, combat loaded 14.3 tons. U. S. Army Ordnance School Tank Data, (Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., 1958), pp. 157-158.

"POSTAL TELEGRAPH

VE33 TWS GOVT PD 3 MINS-FTKNOX KY 20 639P

HON KEEN JOHNSON=

GOVERNOR OF KY FRANKFORT KY=

UNDER AUTHORITY OF PUBLIC RESOLUTION NUMBER NINETY SIX COMMA
SEVENTY SIXTH CONGRESS COMMA APPROVED AUGUST TWENTY SEVEN
COMMAN NINETEEN FORTY COMMA THE PRESIDENT HAS GIVEN HIS
SIGNATURE TO AN EXECUTIVE ORDER DATED NOVEMBER SIXTEENTH COMMA
NINETEEN FORTY COMMA ORDERING ALL FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED
ELEMENTS OF COMPANY D COMMA ONE HUNDRED NINETY SECOND TANK
BATTALION OF THE NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OF THE
STATE OF KENTUCKY AND ALL PERSONNEL OF BOTH THE ACTIVE AND
INACTIVE NATIONAL GUARD ASSIGNED THERETO IN TO THE ACTIVE
MILITARY SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER
TWENTY FIVE COMMA NINETEEN FORTY=

HENRY L STINSON - WASHINGTON DC." (1)

1. This is a copy of the original telegram which was received in The Adjutant General's Office on November 20, 1940, at 7:26 p.m. ordering the 192d Tank Battalion into active Federal service.

The men whose names appear on this monument sailed from San Francisco 27 October 1941 under sealed orders with 192d G.H.Q. Tank Battalion and arrived at Manila 20 November 1941. They fought to defend Bataan and Corregidor, 'one of the decisive battles of the world', in a long protracted struggle to save the Pacific and Australia from enemy hands while the United Nations gathered strength to resist.

These honored men gave their lives for their country:

HARRY R. LAFON, JR.
GEORGE A. VANARSDALL
ARCH B. RUE
EVERETT R. PRESTON
WALLACE DENNY
YANDELL TERHUNE
JOHNNIE BOTTOMS
BEN DEVINE
EDWARD FRENCH
ELZIE E. ANNESS
ROY E. GOODPASTER
WESLEY D. HUNGATE
HUGH J. LEONARD
JENNINGS B. SCANLON

HERBERT STEEL
VERNON H. BUSSELL
ROBERT V. CLOYD
ANCEL E. CRICK
JOHN L. CUMMINS
OSCAR DEAN
WILLARD E. FOSTER
BERCHELL KEELING
FRED LEONARD
JOE B. MILLION
HEZE F. SALLEE
JAMES W. SALLEE
EDWARD V. TRISLER
EDGAR G. WILLS
WILLARD R. YEAST

These brave men survived "The Death March" and some three and one-half years as prisoners of war and returned to their homes in Mercer County:

EDWIN W. RUE
WILLIAM GENTRY
MAURICE E. WILSON
JOE ANNESS
MORGAN FRENCH
KENNETH M. HOURIGAN
WILLIAM C. ALFORD
WILLIAM E. BLACKETER
MARCUS A. LAWSON
JOHN E. SADLER
WILLIAM D. SPARROW
GEORGE E. CHUMLEY
EARL FOWLER
LONNIE L. GRAY
CHARLES E. REED
GARRATT G. ROYALTY
JUDSON D. SIMPSON
RALPH STINE

CLAUDE L. YEAST
GROVER C. BRUMMETT
MORRIS S. COLLIER
JAMES W. DURR
LYLE C. HARLOWE
STANLEY H. KYLER
LAURENCE I. MARTIN
ALBERT B. MOORE
WILLIAM PEAVLER
CHARLIE R. QUINN
FIELD M. REED, JR.
CAMPBELL K. SADLER
ERNEST L. SAMPSON, JR.
CECIL J. SIMS
REID SHEWMAKER
MARVIN D. TAYLOR
CECIL R. VANDIVER
GROVER D. WHITTINGHILL
LUCIEN F. YANKEY

This information appears on the bronze plaque which was placed upon the Bataan monument by the Harrodsburg Bataan Memorial Committee on June 15, 1961, in Harrodsburg, Kentucky.

VI. BATTLE HONORS CITATION

GENERAL ORDER NO. 101., WAR DEPARTMENT, 1945 -

"1. The Provisional Tank Group, United States Army Forces In the Far East, Composed of the following units:

Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment;
192d General Headquarters Tank Battalion (Light);
194th General Headquarters Tank Battalion (Light)
(less detachments);
17th Ordnance Company (Armored).

Is cited for outstanding performance of duty in action during the defense of the Philippines. Organized late in November 1941, it took battle positions on 1 December in the vicinity of Clark Field and Fort Stotsenburg, from which it fought a notable action in the defense of these critical points in the initial hostile attack. In the course of the withdrawal into Bataan, its units were constantly in the field, covering the supporting four divisions of the North Luzon Force, and two of the South Luzon Force, its elements operating initially 150 miles apart. This unit contributed most vitally in all stages and under extraordinary handicaps to the protraction of the operations and the successful withdrawal. Its units were the last out of both North and South Luzon, and the last into the Bataan Peninsula, on 7 January 1942.

2. The Provisional Tank Group, United States Army Forces In the Far East, Composed of the following units:

Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment;
192d General Headquarters Tank Battalion (Light);
194th General Headquarters Tank Battalion (Light)
(less detachments);
17th Ordnance Company (Armored).

Is cited for outstanding performance of duty in action during the defense of the Philippines. During the period from 6 January to 8 March 1942, after covering the withdrawal of the Luzon Forces into the Bataan Peninsula, this group was charged with the support of the I and II Philippine Corps, the cordon of defense of the coasts of Bataan, and the defense of the three major landing fields. These measures prevented a projected landing of airborne and paratroop enemy, as well as several abortive thrusts across Manila Bay, any one of which would have meant early disaster in Bataan. Under constant air attack, these units, despite heavy losses in men and material, maintained a magnificent defense and through their ability, courage, and devotion to duty contributed in large measure to the prolonged defense of the Bataan Peninsula." (1)

By Order of The Secretary of War:

(1). Operations of the Provisional Tank Group, United States Army in the Far East, (Washington D. C., 1945, National Archives Record Group Number 331.)pp. 2-3

Company D, 192d Tank Battalion, from Harrodsburg, Kentucky, was called into active Federal Service, on the 25th of November 1940. On the 28th of November, it moved to Fort Knox, Kentucky, where they began advanced tank training. The Battalion remained at Fort Knox until September 2nd, 1941, at which time, they were transferred to Camp Polk, Louisiana, to participate in field maneuvers. It is interesting to note, that at the conclusion of these maneuvers, the 192d was chosen for its outstanding ability and performance, by Lieutenant General George S. Patton, Jr., to be transferred overseas, for duty in the Philippine Islands. Thus, on the 19th of October 1941, the 192d transferred from Camp Polk, to the Port of Embarkation, San Francisco, California.

Upon arrival in San Francisco, the 192d went to Angel Island for final processing. When this processing was completed, the Battalion moved back to San Francisco Harbor, and boarded the transport PRESIDENT PIERCE. (1) The 192d sailed from San Francisco, on the 27th of October 1941. While enroute to the Philippine Islands, two stops were made, one in the Hawaiian Islands, and another on the island outpost of Guam.

It was Thanksgiving Day, the 20th of November 1941, when the PRESIDENT PIERCE dropped anchor in Manila Harbor. After disembarking from the transport, the 192d moved to Fort Stotsenburg, which was located near Clark Air Field.

On the 21st of November 1941, the Provisional Tank Group, United States Forces in the Far East, was formed under the command of Brigadier General James R. N. Weaver. The Tank Group, consisted of the following units: Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment; the 192d General Headquarters Tank Battalion (Light); the 194th General Headquarters Tank Battalion (Light) (less detachments);

(1). The name of the PRESIDENT PIERCE is capitalized simulating italics.

and the 17th Ordnance Company (Armored).

The Tank Group, equipped and ready for action, moved from Fort Stotsenburg to Clark Field on the 1st of December 1941, and assumed battle positions. Their primary mission was to defend Clark Field against a Japanese airborne parachute attack. The Tank Group, remained in these battle positions until after the initial Japanese air attack which was made on the 8th of December 1941.

After the Japanese 14th ARMY (1) made amphibious landings on the Island of Luzon, the Tank Group was ordered from Clark Field, to battle positions in northwest and southeast Luzon, to assist in repulsing these landings.

As the Campaign wore on, and the withdrawal of the North and South Luzon Forces progressed into the Bataan Peninsula, the Tank Group then supported the I Corps in the western sector, under the command of Lieutenant General Johnathan M. Wainwright, and the II Corps in the eastern sector, under the command of Major General George M. Parker, Jr.

In memorandum written to the Japanese 14th ARMY Commanders, sometime in February or March of 1942, Lieutenant General Masaharu Homma, the Supreme Commander for the Philippine Theater of Operations, had this to say concerning the defense of the Bataan Peninsula, by the American and Philippine Armed Forces: "In estimating enemy situation, the book on tactics has taught us a counter-plan by using a basic scheme such as taking action that would put the enemy in a difficult position. On the contrary, it frequently happens that they see through our plan. I am therefore very disappointed with the situation." (2).

(1). Japanese Army units are capitalized, simulating italics.

(2). JAPANESE 14th ARMY Operations, Vol. II., Number 2., (Washington, D. C., National Archives File Number 3743), P. 16

On the 9th of April 1942, the tired, dissipated, and half-starved men defending Bataan, surrendered. Major General Edward P. King, Jr., who had assumed command of the Bataan garrison after General Wainwright transferred to Corregidor, tendered the surrender to Major General Kameichiro Nagano, 21st INFANTRY group commander. "It was about 0900 when King, in his last clean uniform, went forward to meet General Nagano. He felt, he said later, like General Lee who on the same day seventy-seven years earlier, just before his meeting with Grant at Appomatox, had remarked: 'Then there is nothing left to do but to go and see General Grant, and I would rather die a thousand deaths'". (1)

In store for the men who surrendered on Bataan, there was the degrading march from Mariveles to San Fernando. This was a confused exodus, sixty-five miles of horror and atrocities, now known in the annals of history as the "Death March". "Denied food and water, robbed of their personal possessions and equipment, forced to march under the hot sun and halt in areas where even the most primitive sanitary facilities were lacking, clubbed, beaten, and bayoneted by their Japanese conquerors, General King's men made their way into captivity." (2) One of the prisoners wrote of the "Death March", "and we just slogged through the prodigious dust like wingless flies in a weaving stupor." (3)

Some of the defenders of Bataan, rather than surrender to the Japanese, made their way across Manila Bay, to the island fortress of Corregidor, to finally capitulate with the garrison on the 6th of May 1942.

(1). Louis Morton, The Fall of The Philippines. UNITED STATES ARMY IN WORLD WAR II, Washington, D. C., 1953, pp. 463-464

(2). Morton, *Ibid.*, p. 467

(3). Stanley Lawrence Falk, The Bataan Death March. (Georgetown University, Washington, D. C., 1952), p. 78

When General Wainwright announced his decision to cease the hostilities on Corregidor, and the surrounding islands, he said in his message to President Roosevelt, and General MacArthur:

With broken heart and head bowed in sadness but not in shame, I report,that today I must arrange terms for the surrender of the fortified islands of Manila Bay....Please say to the nation that my troops and I have accomplished all that is humanly possible and that we have upheld the best traditions of the United States and its Army....With profound regret and with continued pride in my gallant troops, I go to meet the Japanese commander. (1)

However, needless to say, all of the men who surrendered on Bataan and Corregidor, were subject to the brutality of their Japanese captors until the conclusion of the war.

Just what was accomplished by these men? Louis Morton, states it in this manner: "In the context of global war, the Philippines did not in 1942 possess great strategic significance. However, it demonstrated that the Japanese were not invincible, that they could be stopped by determined men, ably led, even when the odds were heavily in their favor. For an Allied world surfeited on gloom, defeat, and despair, the epic of Bataan and Corregidor was a symbol of hope and a beacon of success for the future." (2)

General James R. N. Weaver, who commanded the Tank Group, had this statement to make: "That the service rendered by the troops of this armored force was as grilling in its continuity, severity, and exactions as any rendered in either war by any arm." (3)

(1). Morton, ob.cit., p. 561

(2). Morton, Ibid., p. 584

(3). Prov Tank Gp Rpt of Opns, ob.cit., p. 27

General of the Armies Douglas MacArthur, paid his tribute by stating:
"No army in history more thoroughly accomplished its mission. Let no man
henceforth speak of it other than a magnificent victory." (1)

President Franklin D. Roosevelt, wrote to General Wainwright, on the
eve of his surrender: "In every camp and on every naval vessel, soldiers,
sailors, and marines are inspired by the gallant struggle of their comrades
in the Philippines. You and your devoted followers have become the living
symbols of our war aims and the guarantee of victory." (2)

"If I endure-----I must go on enduring
And my reward for bearing pain-----is pain
Yet, though the thrill, the zest, the hope are
gone
Something within me keeps me fighting on." (3)

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- (1). Extract of a speech made by General MacArthur
(2). Morton, ob.cit., p. 584
(3). Lieutenant Henry G. Lee, "Nothing But Praise", Morton, Ibid., p. 389